HAND-BOOK

City of Dundee

CORPORATION BATHS

AND

WASH-HOUSES

With Compliments of
Markets and
Baths Committee

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Dundee Corporation

Public Baths and Wash-Houses

ARE under administrative control of a Special Committee of the Town Council appointed for Markets and Baths, which is also responsible for the supervision of the Fish, Flower and Cattle Markets, the Petty Customs and Public Slaughter-houses, as well as the department outlined in this Hand-book.

DUNDEE CENTRAL BATHS, FROM THE WEST

Dundee Corporation Baths

and Wash-Houses.

IF, as has been said, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness," the provision on the part of a Local Authority of adequate facilities towards the securing of this must be counted to it for righteousness.

It has been thought desirable on the part of the Committee responsible for the control of the Department, at this important period in the history of the development of Baths and Wash-houses in our City, to issue a Hand-Book such as would to some extent adequately inform the community of this form of Public Health work as carried on in our Central and Branch Establishments under the capable supervision of Mr WALTER McGREGOR.

The inception of the present extensive Municipal Bathing Establishment at the West Protection Wall may be said to have taken place on the

first day of April 1844, at a public meeting convened by the then Provost, who issued a placard in the following terms :—

PUBLIC BATHS.

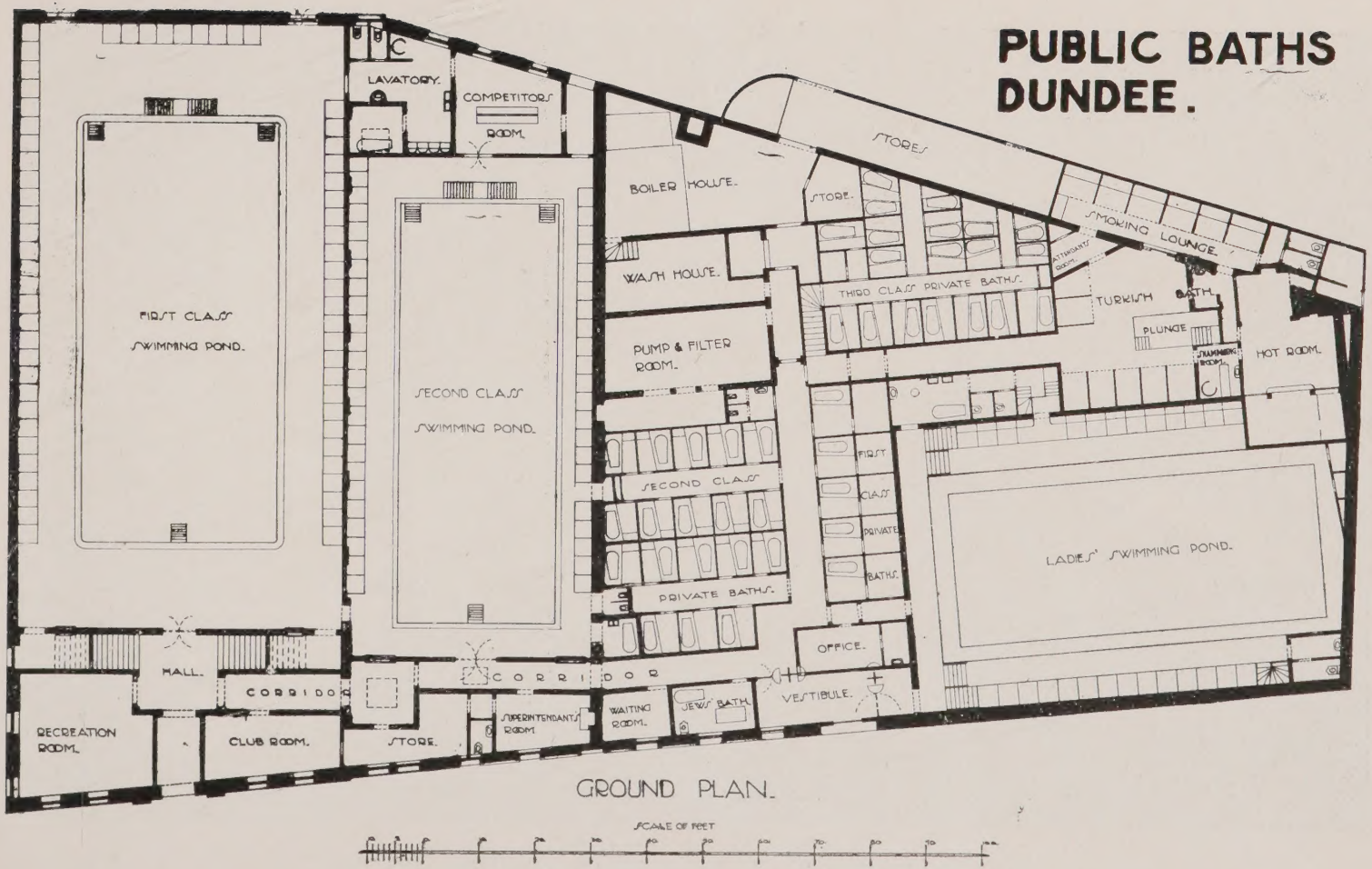
In compliance with a Requisition, signed by upwards of Eighteen Hundred Working Men, I hereby call a PUBLIC MEETING of the INHABITANTS OF DUNDEE, to be held in ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL, School Wynd, on MONDAY EVENING, April 1, 1844, at Eight o'clock, for the purpose of considering the propriety of establishing PUBLIC BATHS for the WORKING CLASSES, and taking the necessary steps for their immediate formation.

ALEXANDER LAWSON, *Provost.*

The result of this meeting was that a Bathing Station was set up on the West Protection Wall, and this formed the nucleus of the existing establishment.

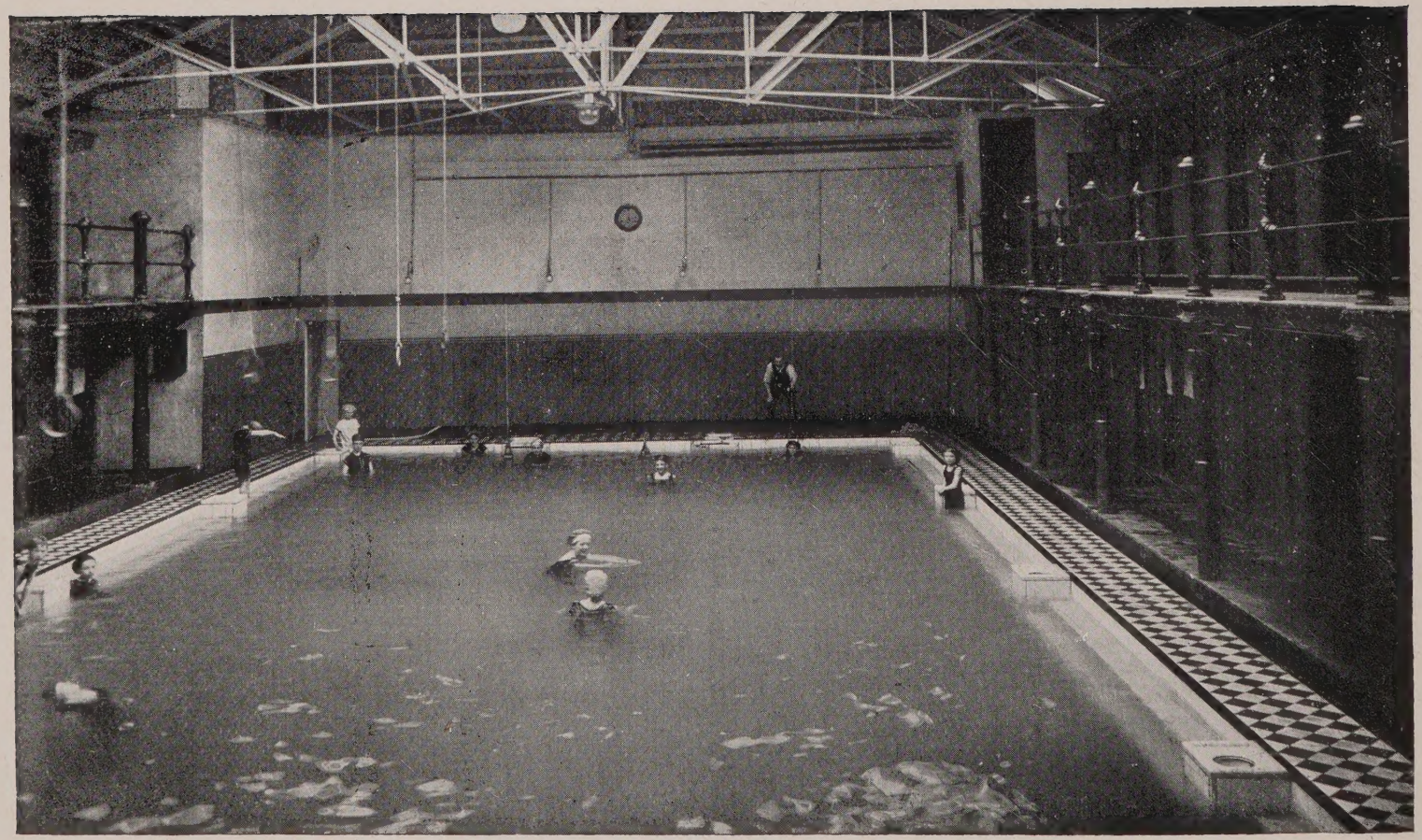
After twenty-seven years of private control, during which the demand for bathing facilities had steadily increased, the public mind had been educated to the necessity of having Public Baths under the control of the Corporation, and, accordingly, satisfactory arrangements having been made, the

PUBLIC BATHS DUNDEE.



GROUND PLAN.

SCALE OF FEET



LADIES' SWIMMING POND DUNDEE CENTRAL BATHS.

Bathing Establishment at the West Protection Wall was transferred to the Corporation on the 1st January 1871. For the long period of forty years, therefore, Dundee Town Council—which was one of the very first to meet this need—has provided facilities for the cultivation of the art of Swimming, and accommodation for bathing such as was impossible under local housing conditions. Built upon a site originally granted free by the Dundee Harbour Board, and started on a most modest scale, it has been gradually extended, until we have now the present extensive suite, which, considered from the points of view of completeness, water supply and convenience, is without doubt at present the finest Bathing Establishment in this country.

For several years the Town Council has had under consideration the extension of this Central Institution or its rebuilding on another site. In 1908 this took tangible shape, when a motion to spend a sum of £10,000 in improving and extending the present buildings was passed. The present handsome block is the result. From designs prepared by Mr James Thomson, C.E., the City Architect, not only have the Turkish Baths been entirely reconstructed, and the old unsatisfactory second and third class ponds converted into one of large and spacious dimensions, but the new west wing

has been built to contain not only a handsome first-class pond worthy of the Institution and the City, but a suite of club, dressing and retiring rooms, such as will adequately meet all local requirements for many years to come. The addition of the platform and spectators' galleries, with collapsible dressing boxes in the area, also provides space for gala and display work such as was formerly impossible. In the fittings otherwise it will be readily admitted by visitors that no effort has been spared, either by architect or contractors, which would be conducive to a pleasing result in an Institution eminently utilitarian in its aims. Perhaps, however, the principal achievements are unseen by the ordinary spectator. Only those who have been in the underground tunnels can adequately appreciate what has been done in the planning of a perfect water supply, and the retaining of same in a state of the highest possible purity. The network of intersecting piping is a testimony to the engineering skill of those responsible, while the provision of a mechanical ærating and filtering plant, in addition to the ordinary sand filter beds, speaks for the foresight of those in charge of the work. In fact, everything has not only been designed to make indoor bathing comfortable, attractive and safe, but to ensure the expansion of this important public health work on the soundest lines.

NEW FIRST-CLASS SWIMMING POND, DUNDEE CENTRAL BATHS.

RECONSTRUCTED TURKISH BATHS, DUNDEE CENTRAL BATHS.

Since the adoption by the Corporation of a progressive and enlightened policy, stimulated by the demands of a public awakened to the inestimable advantages of systematic bathing, extensions and improvements have been carried out from time to time, till now the Establishment is rightly regarded as one of the most up-to-date of Municipal Institutions.

In this Central Establishment, every class of bath work is carried on. There are three Swimming Ponds (First Class, Second Class, and Ladies', respectively), with an ample number of Dressing Boxes, Lavatories and Spectators' Galleries. There are 6 first class, 20 second class, and 20 third class Private and Plunge Baths, and also a well-appointed suite of Turkish and Russian Baths, fully equipped and attended to by competent assistants; while in the winter months one of the pond halls may be made available for concert, gymnasium, or exhibition purposes. Several of the Private Baths are supplied with hot and cold salt water.

From the 1909 Report of Dr Templeman, Medical Officer of Health for the City, the writer takes the liberty of quoting as follows:—

"Baths and Wash-houses are under a Special Superintendent. These form most important auxiliaries to our means of preserving and improving

DUNDEE CENTRAL BATHS FROM THE EAST.

SWIMMING POND, LOCHEE BATHS.

the Public Health. Regarding these the Superintendent reports as follows:—

The Central Baths, West Protection Wall, comprise—

Three Swimming Baths—

First Class— 75 ft. × 35 ft. : depth 7 ft. to 3 ft. 6 in.

Second Class—75 ft. × 28 ft. ; depth $6\frac{1}{2}$ ft. to 3 ft.

Ladies' Bath—$66\frac{1}{2}$ ft. × 30 ft. ; depth $6\frac{1}{2}$ ft. to 3 ft.

Six First Class Plunge Baths.

Twenty Second Class Plunge Baths.

Twenty Third Class Plunge Baths.

Suite of Turkish and Russian Baths.

Guthrie Street Baths and Wash-houses comprise—

Twenty-one Plunge Baths and Wash-room for Boys.

Fifty-eight Washing Stalls and Blanket Room.

Lochee Baths and Wash-houses comprise—

One Swimming Bath, 60 ft. × 26 ft. ; depth 6 ft. to 3 ft.

Thirteen Plunge Baths.

Thirty-two Washing Stalls, with Blanket accommodation.

Central Wash-houses, "Meadows," comprise—

Thirty-eight Washing Stalls, with Blanket Room and Laundry.

Constable Street Baths and Wash-houses comprise—

Eighteen Plunge Baths.

Forty Washing Stalls, Blanket Room and Laundry.

Caldrum Street Baths and Wash-houses comprise—

Eighteen Plunge Baths.

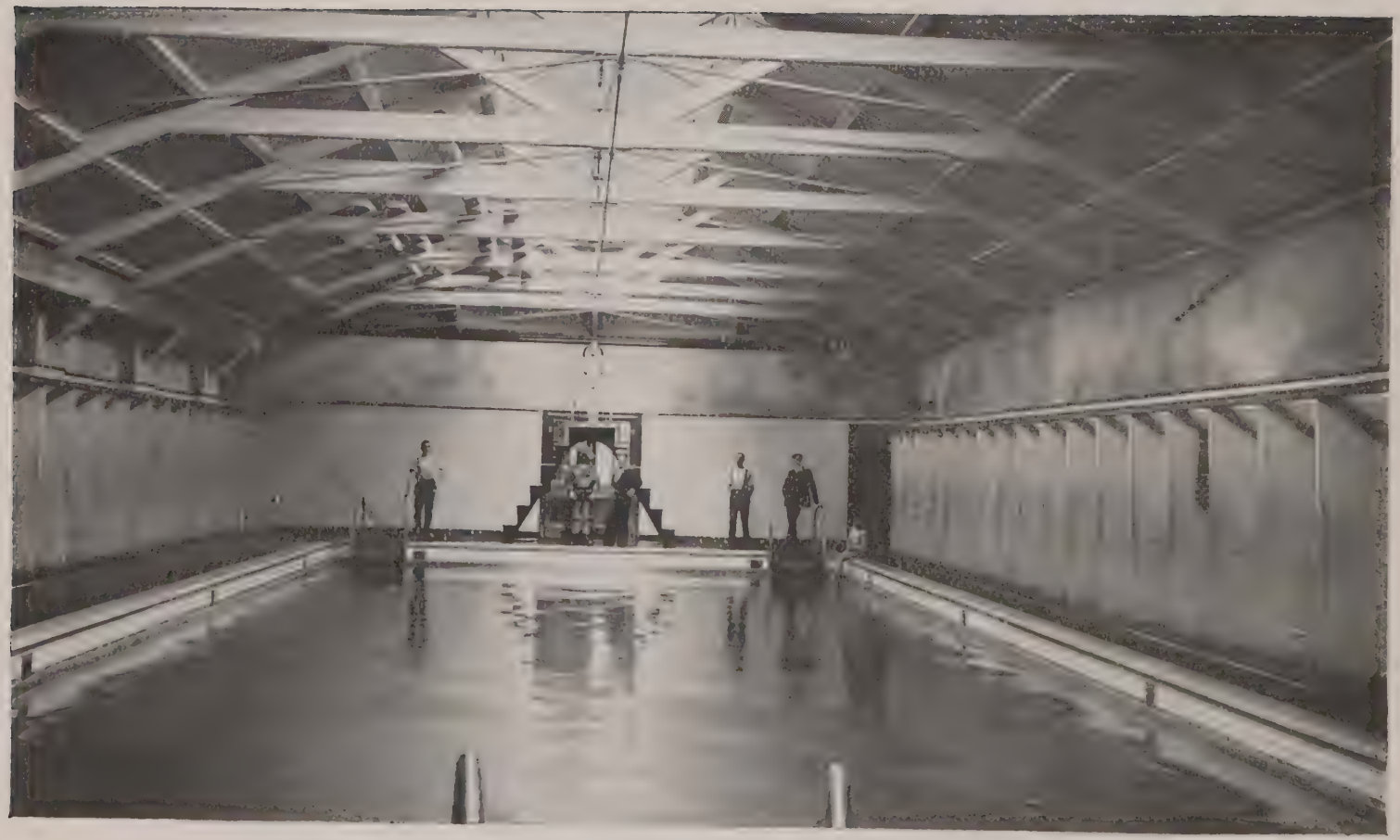
Fifty-eight Washing Stalls, Blanket Room and Laundry.

Miller's Wynd Baths and Wash-houses comprise—

Twenty-four Plunge Baths.

Thirty-two Washing Stalls, Blanket Room and Laundry.

The Guthrie Street, Lochee, and Constable Street establishments are situated in the poorer districts of the City. Caldrum Street, Miller's Wynd, and Central Wash-house, "Meadows," are in the better-class working districts. From experience it has been found that the most suitable sites for Baths and Wash-houses are in those parts of the City inhabited by the better class of working people. As time has gone on the people have appreciated more and more the facilities afforded by a properly equipped system of Public Wash-houses.



SECOND-CLASS SWIMMING POND, DUNDEE CENTRAL BATHS.

GUTHRIE STREET BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES.

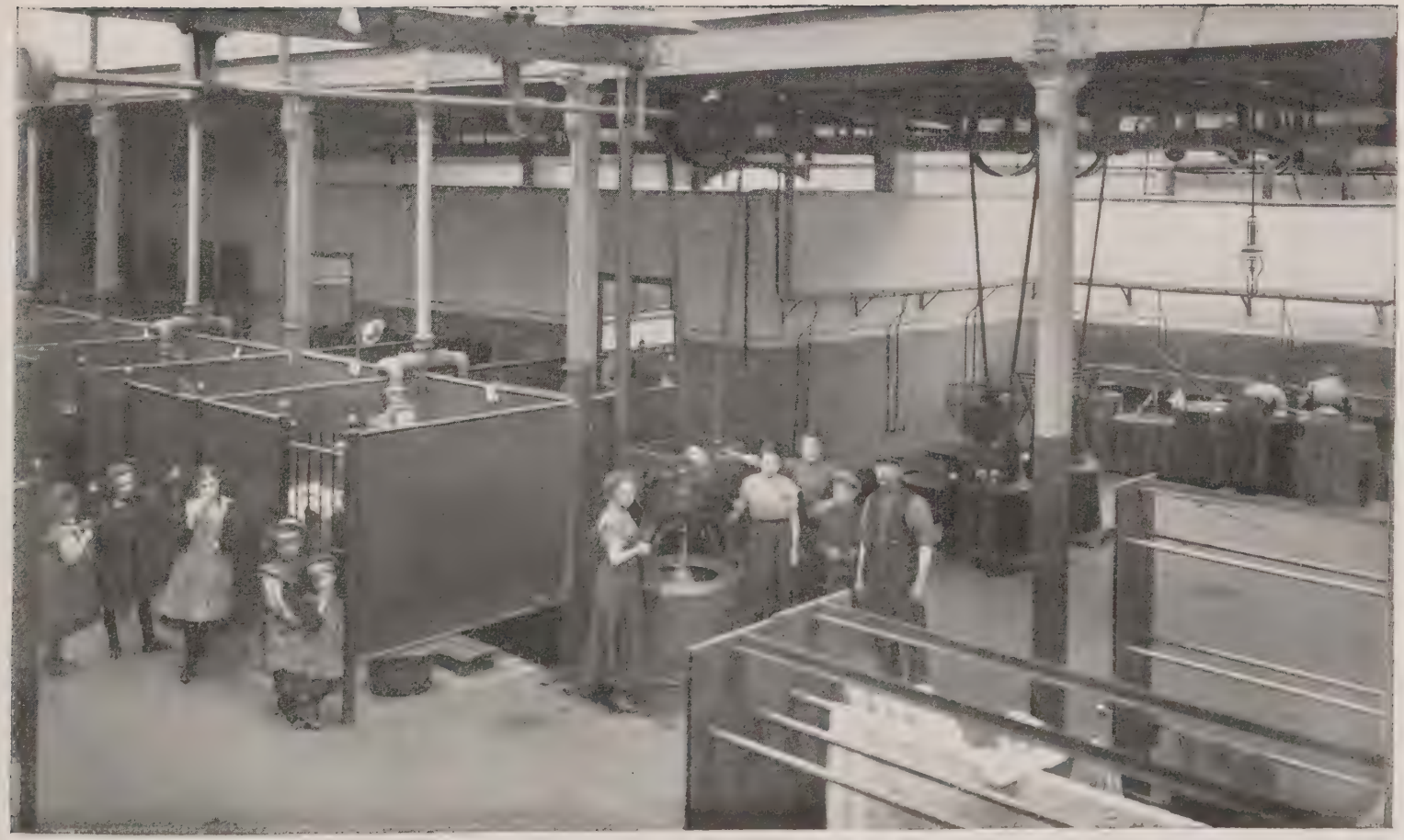
Owing to the large number of women employed in our mills and factories who are at work till six o'clock, it has been thought necessary to keep the Wash-houses open until about 10 o'clock each night.

The return of Bathers and Washers for year ended 31st December 1909, is as follows :—

Baths Department.		
Central	141,157	
Guthrie Street	9,065	
Lochee	34,536	
Constable Street	9,042	
Caldrum Street	12,972	
Miller's Wynd	10,164	
		216,936
Wash-house Department.		
Guthrie Street	48,349	
Lochee	17,159	
Constable Street	34,629	
Caldrum Street	46,212	
Miller's Wynd	40,740	
Meadows	27,746	
		214,838
	Grand Total	431,774."

PRIVATE BATHING.

One of the most important and interesting branches of the work of this department is that comprised under the heading of Branch



MILLER'S WYND BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES.

Baths and Wash-houses. Situated in suitable centres throughout the city is a chain of branches, in which is provided extensive accommodation for purposes of private bathing, and the giving of facilities for washing clothes to our great working population, where in many cases the house-mother is also the bread-winner, and has to do her home-work in the briefest of evening hours. The housing conditions in Dundee are such that only in larger dwellings with high rents is it possible to provide that equipment for personal cleanliness which is necessary to secure the healthy soundness of body which is one of the conditions of physical well-being. In our suites of private baths, the public authority here steps in and gives a service which places the poorer citizen on an equality with his better-off neighbour. For a modest threepence or sixpence all the necessary provision is made, and one has but to step into one of these establishments to have his wants adequately cared for.

PUBLIC WASH-HOUSES.

In regard to the Wash-house department, one cannot speak too highly of the immense public service being rendered here. The general public have

little conception either of the magnitude or of the importance of this work, and the figures given in the Medical Officer's Report which has been quoted only partially convey an idea of the benefit conferred upon those who take advantage of the service provided. Originally suggested in 1891 it was not until 1897 that this department actually took being, Guthrie Street branch being opened in the latter year. No sooner was it in operation, however, than it attained such a measure of success as foreshadowed the spread of such institutions over the whole of the City. For a minimum of outlay all the necessaries are here provided for the rapid washing and drying of clothes, almost an essential in the case of those who have only one change of clothing to deal with —where the bedding can be stripped, washed and purified, dried and returned to service all in the course of the few living hours between the six o'clock which in so many cases ushers in the home life and the time when "Nature's sweet restorer" asserts her claim to recognition. The busy hives which these establishments are between the hours of 6 to 9.30 p.m. can only be realised by a personal visit. And the value of the work is greatly enhanced when one knows that it is practically self-supporting; indeed in the youngest of the establishments, that of Miller's Wynd, Perth Road, owing to improvements in construction and methods employed, almost from the first a small surplus

OPEN-AIR SWIMMING POND, ESPLANADE.

has been shown. One special feature which should be emphasized is the fact that in the poorer localities not quite so full advantage is taken of these institutions as might have been expected. They seem to be most successful when placed in the midst of a busy artisan population, thus showing that the process of education in this department of Public Health work has not yet reached the lower order of society which is so abnormally large in a great industrial community such as ours. Special attention is drawn to this work both by pen and illustration in the hope that readers may care to inform themselves more fully of its importance and extent by making a personal visit to one of our institutions. In Constable Street and Caldrum Street a suite of halls was originally projected as part of the scheme to be used as district libraries, but the Carnegie gift was intimated before these were dedicated to such service, and the Council is presently considering means whereby they can be rendered most useful to the community. At present, Constable Street rooms are being rented by the School Board for manual classes, and they have also at various times been of great service in relief-work, a complete soup kitchen equipment having been installed.

OPEN-AIR STATIONS.

But not only does the Department devote itself to the interests of

"WAITING THEIR TURN," DUNDEE CENTRAL BATHS.

swimmers, bathers and washers in the extended Central and Branch Institutions, where of necessity a charge has to be made for the service rendered, but it provides free open-air bathing facilities both in the East and the West End, as well as a Rescue Station on the river front. On the made-up ground at the Esplanade a very large Open-Air Swimming Pond was erected some years ago, and is now in constant daily use in the warmer summer months of the year. The pond is fed, so far as water is concerned, by means of tidal movement, so that we have the natural water of the estuary without filtration or artificial heating. This pond, which is built in concrete, measures 120 feet long by 70 feet wide, and is very largely patronised, especially by our boys during the school vacation period. On the river front near it, just under the shadow of the Tay Bridge, a Rescue Station is provided during the summer months, with a permanent Rescue, who has on many occasions been the means of saving valuable lives.

On the made-up ground belonging to the Harbour Board, east of the new Electric Station, there is another similar pond, which is also much frequented, especially by boys. A Rescue is also stationed here during

the summer, and both these Free Institutions are widely appreciated. An application was recently before the Committee for larger provision of this kind. In view of the facilities given, however, the decision to do nothing meantime in the matter will be generally approved.

To mark the opening of the new enlarged Central Institution, the Town Council, on the recommendation of a Special Committee, established a Dundee Corporation Water Polo Shield for competition among district clubs, and chose a chaste design, which is illustrated above. It has also established a Dundee District Swimming Championship Cup. This beautiful silver trophy, weighing seventy ounces, will be offered for annual competition to the best swimmer in the district, and, it is hoped, will prove a strong incentive to excellence in the sport.

SCHOOL TRAINING.

It is most interesting also to learn that the public schools are again devoting considerable attention to this important art, and the Sports Committee under the School Board makes arrangements for an Annual Gala, at which various trophies are offered for competition. In a seaboard community such as our own no branch of physical training is of greater importance than that of swimming, and it is to be hoped that such arrangements can be come to as may permit of an opportunity being afforded by the School Board to every boy or girl of acquiring a knowledge of it. With the extensive facilities now provided by the Town Council, no help should be wanting on the part of those responsible for the training of our young people.

As showing the general utility of the Public Baths, it may be pointed out that the Committee recently arranged with Commander JOHNSON, of H.M.S. "Vulcan," on approval of the Admiralty, that the members of his force stationed here should have the use of the Baths for under-water drill purposes, and it is satisfactory to learn that this service is greatly appreciated by the local representatives of the King's "Navee."

THE following are the Hours and Charges as fixed by the Committee for the various public services rendered by the Department, and formally approved by the Town Council at its meeting of 1st September 1910. They are subject to alteration from time to time as circumstances may require.

DUNDEE CENTRAL BATHS.—Open Week Days from 6.30 A.M. till 10 P.M.; Sunday Mornings from 6.30 till 9 a.m.

CHARGES.

	1st Class.	2nd Class.	Ladies.
Swimming Baths.—Single Admission, - -	6d	2d	6d
After Four o'clock, -	4d	2d	4d
Saturdays all day, -	4d	2d	4d
Set of Twelve Tickets (available at all times), -	4/-	1/9	4/-
Set of Twelve Tickets (after Four o'clock), -	3/-	1/9	3/-
Set of Twelve Tickets (to Clubs), - - -	3/-	1/3	3/-
Set of Twelve Tickets (available during Club hours), -	2/-	1/3	2/-
SEASON TICKETS.—Yearly, - - -	20/-	10/6	20/-
Club Ticket, - - -	15/9	8/-	15/9
Half-Yearly (Juveniles only),	10/6	7/6	16/0

GALAS.—Arrangements as to these to be made with the Baths Committee through the Superintendent.

CHARGES—*contd.*

		1st Class.	2nd Class.	3rd Class.
Private Baths.—	Fresh Water, Single, - -	**1/-**	**6d**	**3d**
	Salt Water, Single, - - -	**1/2**	**8d**	**5d**
	Fresh Water, Set of Twelve, -	**8/-**	**4/-**	**2/-**
	Salt Water, Set of Twelve, - -	**10/-**	**6/-**	**3/6**

TURKISH BATHS.

Single Bath, before 5 o'clock, -	**2/-**	From 5 till 7, -	**1/6**	7 till 10, -	**1/-**
Set of 12 Baths, before 5 o'clock,	**16/-**	From 5 till 7, -	**12/-**	7 till 10, -	**8/-**

YEARLY TICKET, available from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., **30/-**

The Turkish Bath is reserved for Ladies, on above terms, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 10 to 2, and from 7 to 10.

RUSSIAN BATH.

Single Bath, - - -	**1/6**	Set of Twelve Baths, -	**12/-**

BRANCH BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES.

OPEN—Week-Days, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. ; Sundays, from 6.30 to 9 a.m.

CHARGES.

BATHS.

First Class, = = =	**9d**	**Third Class,** = = =	**3d**
Second Class, = =	**6d**	**Wash-House**—Boys, **1d** ; Adults,	**2d**

Set of **12 Tickets**—FIRST CLASS, **6/-** ; SECOND CLASS, **4/-** ; THIRD CLASS, **2/-**

LOCHEE SWIMMING POND,

60 ft. by 25 ft., with 22 Dressing Boxes, and Spectators' Gallery.

Charge, 2d; Set of 12 Tickets, 1/9; Set of 12 Tickets to Clubs, 1/3

BRANCH WASH-HOUSES.

Charges, 2d per hour per stall, which includes use of Washing and Boiling Tubs, Wringers, Green, and Drying Horse. **2**d per hour for use of specially equipped Blanket Room, including Hydro-Extractor. Hydro-Extractor separately, **1**d per washing.

For the convenience of those using the Wash-houses, Soap and other requisites supplied on the premises.

THE SUPERINTENDENT.

No booklet such as this would be complete without a reference to the supervision of the department. The Committee is fortunate in having in Mr McGregor one whose heart is entirely in the work. He took up duty as long ago as 1876, having formerly been an inspector with the Water Commissioners, so that for thirty-five years he has been responsible for the undertaking, having not only seen the entire reconstruction of the original buildings, but all the later developments in Branch Establishments have been carried out under his charge. He is prominently associated with gymnastics, and for nearly twenty years has been President of the Scottish Gymnastic Association, while he was also one of the founders of the Scottish Amateur Swimming Association. With able assistance he has made the teaching of swimming a fine art, and has a wide circle of friends.

Dundee, 25*th October* 1910.

CITY OF DUNDEE.

BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES DEPARTMENT.

CENTRAL BATHS,	WEST PROTECTION WALL
LOCHEE BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES,	HIGH STREET, LOCHEE
WEST END BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES,	MILLER'S WYND, PERTH ROAD
NORTH-WEST BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES,	GUTHRIE STREET
NORTHERN BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES,	CALDRUM STREET
EASTERN BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES,	CONSTABLE STREET
CENTRAL WASH-HOUSES,	"MEADOWS," CONSTITUTION ROAD
OPEN-AIR PONDS AND RESCUE STATIONS,	ESPLANADE (WEST END) AND STANNERGATE

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT, MR WALTER McGREGOR.

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